VIETNAM COURIER

August 5 1968

No 176

5th Year

Information Weekly — E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

UP TO JULY 29, 1968

3,069 U.S. aircraft were downed in North Viet Nam

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South Viet Nam MILITARY OPERATIONS

★ **1,000 Enemy Troops (700 G.I.s) Killed or Wounded, 25 Vessels Sunk or Damaged, 8 Choppers Downed and 6 Planes Set Afire in a 3-Day Engagement near BEN TRE.**

★ **About 50 Enemy Positions Attacked in 5 Days: 400 G.I.s and 600 Puppet Troops Put out of Action, 32 Aircraft, 25 Military Vehicles and 22 Depots Destroyed or Burnt in DA NANG Region.**

P.L.A.F. fighters shooting at enemy planes

THE PARIS TALKS: AMERICAN PROPAGANDA AND PLOTS

THE D.R.V.N.'s proposal to hold official talks threw Mr Johnson's Democratic Administration into utter confusion. Coming after that American avowal of defeat: the decision to carry out "limited bombing" of the North, it caused such surprise in Washington that for the whole month of April, Messrs Johnson, Rusk and Co. left no stone unturned to try to free themselves from their own pledge to go "anywhere, any time"! Again it was only thanks to D.R.V.N. good will that meetings could be arranged in Paris between Mr Xuan Thuy and Mr Harriman.

Recalling these circumstances will give the reader an idea of the state of mind in which the White House's delegates arrived Rue Kléber. In its April 3 statement, the Foreign Ministry of the D.R.V.N., while insisting on the fact that Mr Johnson's "limited bombing" was an important victory for the Vietnamese people, did not forget to point out the perfidious manoeuvres behind that U.S. measure. As stressed in the Western press, the Americans' acceptance of the Paris meeting was merely a time-gaining and time-biding move.

A TRUE PICTURE OF THE TALKS

FIFTEEN sessions so far. And no progress has been recorded. The Americans delegates have kept beating about the bush and eluding the main subject: "to ascertain the unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war over the whole territory of the D.R.V.N." Arrogating to themselves the right to infringe on an independent and sovereign country, they have been harping on the "San Antonio formula," which they have presented in the most various forms. At the 13th session, Mr Harriman declared straight away: "It would not be enough to simply say: Stop the bombing!" One can't more overtly ask for a ransom in exchange for a cessation of one's criminal action! It is evident that the Vietnamese people, with their sense of self-respect and conscious of their international duties, will not permit the creation of such a precedent: putting a premium on violation of laws governing relations among States!

Trying to justify U.S. criminal actions against North Viet Nam and aggression against the South, the Washington diplomats have been invoking their own "aggression by the North against

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The Lesson of August 5

THE first man to be surprised on that August 5, 1964, was the American pilot Everett Alvarez: he was diving to release his bombs on Hongai, a coal-mining town in North Viet Nam, thinking that he was just having a joy ride over a city resigned to its fate, when his plane was caught in a hail of fire. Forced to bale out, he went down in parachute and was captured not by regulars but by armed fishermen. Only then did he understand what had happened. All the population was in arms, and he had been fired on from every side: ack-ack guns, worker militiamen, and fishermen in their boats. On that August 5, in Vinh, Lach Truong, Dong Hoi, everywhere American aircraft were received in the same fashion. In Washington, not without surprise, Johnson got the first news: eight planes shot down, three more damaged, many pilots missing. The most powerful air armada of the capitalist world, hurled on a small country apparently deprived of all means of defence, sustained a bitter defeat. The die was cast right at the first confrontation: the armed forces and people of the D.R.V.N. were ready to hit back vigorously at the aggressor. The blackmail of destruction by air bombing proved utterly ineffective. Since then, four years have gone by, four years of bitter disillusions for the Pentagon men who had pinned all their hopes on an air force considered as the magic arm, four years in the course of which, fighting in their own way, the people and armed forces of North Viet Nam have considerably strengthened their defence potential, contrary to all expectations.

And yet, if the men in Washington had followed developments in Viet Nam, they would have got some warning. At its April 1964 session, the D.R.V.N. National Assembly had voted a resolution declaring that

"If the American imperialists and their valets dare to extend the war to North Viet Nam, all our compatriots in the North, united as one man, will stand up and, together with our compatriots in the South, inflict a severe defeat on them; the peoples of the socialist countries and the world peoples, including the American people, who have been protesting against the policy of aggression of the United States, will give even more active support to the Vietnamese people in their struggle."

For its part, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation declared on August 7, 1964:

"If the American imperialists and their valets are reckless enough to plunge into a dangerous military adventure and do not give up their scheme of extending the war to North Viet Nam, the fourteen million South Vietnamese, united as one man, together with their brothers of the North, will resolutely fight on until final victory and the complete annihilation of the American imperialists and their lackeys in the whole country. To liberate the South and defend the North — such is the unshakable will of the Vietnamese people, in both the South and the North."

IN 1964, Johnson, McNamara, Taylor looked upon those declarations as pure "propaganda." Now, four years later, they must be pondering upon them bitterly. War escalation against the D.R.V.N. was aimed primarily at forcing the Vietnamese Resistance to surrender so that Washington wouldn't have to send troops to Viet Nam and could consolidate the tottering Saigon regime and bring the war to an "honourable" end.

In these early days of August 1968, the men in Washington are finding their objectives more remote than ever. With more than 1,200,000 troops at his disposal, among them 550,000 Americans, General Abrams is vainly seeking to ensure the safety of Saigon and a few other important cities. It's indeed a long, very long way from the time when Westmoreland bragged of "breaking the Vietcong's backbone" by lightning operations and "pacifying" the whole country within a record time. That pincer strategy was buried like so many politico-military plans hatched in Washington over the last twelve years. Everywhere, near the 17th parallel as in the neighbourhood of Saigon or in Central Viet Nam, N.F.L. forces are on the offensive. Besides the spectacular offensives of February and May 1968, uninterrupted attacks carried out with boldness and intelligence by the people's forces continue to bleed the American troops white.

In Saigon and other cities where armed actions are going on, where the people remain very combative, the puppet regime is disintegrating more than ever. Students are in open rebellion, internal strife is rampant, while outstanding intellectuals and important strata of the urban population have joined the ranks of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

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PARIS TALKS' 15th SESSION

THE 15th session of the official conversations between the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government and the representative of the U.S. Government was held in Paris on July 31.

Minister of State Xuan Thuy was absent, and Ambassador Ha Van Lau spoke on his behalf.

Analysing the joint communiqué on the Honolulu meeting between U.S. President Johnson and puppet Nguyen Van Thieu, which the U.S. representative lengthily referred to at the 14th session, Mr. Ha Van Lau said that the word "peace" repeatedly used in it was merely a camouflage for the continuation and intensification of the U.S. war of aggression in South Viet Nam. Nguyen Van Thieu the traitor promised to push up the draft to beef up the puppet army to over one million men by the end of this year whereas President Johnson promised more weapons, stepped-up technical training, and more financial aid to his henchmen, Mr. Ha Van Lau added.

Regarding North Viet Nam, he said, the U.S. has not agreed to an unconditional cessation of its bombings and all other acts of war but keeps asking for "reciprocity," as it has done in the Honolulu communiqué.

The U.S., he stressed, still wants to prolong the partition of Viet Nam while doing its best to glamourize the Nguyen Van Thieu clique of puppets so as to use it as a tool for the implementation of the U.S. neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese diplomat exposed U.S. intensification of the war in both parts of Viet Nam, terrorizing and savagely massacring the people in South Viet Nam, especially the urban population, and stepping up its attacks, of an extermination character, on the territory of the D.R.V.N. from Thanh Hoa province to the Vinh Linh area. The U.S. has thus raised obstacles to the Paris talks but it still brags of its so-called "acts of restraint," the D.R.V.N. envoy added.

Mr. Ha Van Lau then recalled the 4 points of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Program of the N.F.L. which he said are the best foundation for a solution to the Viet Nam question. He flayed the U.S. claim of "respect to the self-determination of the South Vietnamese people." Yet, he pointed out, the U.S. does not recognize the 3rd of the 4 points, which holds that "the internal affairs of South Viet Nam must be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves, in accordance with the programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, without any foreign interference." He condemned U.S. attempt to ignore the role of the South Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

The Vietnamese negotiator underscored the role of the N.F.L. which is leading the Liberation Armed Forces and people of South Viet Nam in the struggle against the U.S. aggressors and their quislings. This struggle, he emphasized, has been winning big victories, especially since the beginning of this year when the P.L.A.F. and people in South Viet Nam entered a new period—that of general offensives and widespread uprisings. The prestige and influence of the N.F.L. are greatly increasing at home and abroad, he said.

After recalling that the objective of the current official conversations between the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government and the representative of the U.S. Government is "to ascertain the unconditional cessation by the U.S. of the bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam," Mr. Ha Van Lau said:

"But so far, from the attitude of the U.S. representative at the Paris official conversations and the joint communiqué between President Johnson and Nguyen Van Thieu, it is transparent that the U.S. has constantly and deliberately refused to meet the legitimate demand which the Government of the D.R.V.N. has stated above, thus making it impossible for the conversations to make the smallest progress. The statement made yesterday in Washington by Mr. Dean Rusk, the U.S. Secretary of State, in particular, once again testified to the obduracy of the U.S. aggressive ruling circles which persist in asking for 'reciprocity' and for a ransom to be paid to aggression. Once again, we unreservedly reject the extremely absurd U.S. demand for 'reciprocity' and resolutely oppose the warlike and aggressive stand of Mr. Dean Rusk who is challenging the aspirations for peace of the American and world peoples. The American side has to bear full responsibility for what consequences may arise from its attitude."

The Vietnamese ambassador then spoke of widespread protest of the people of various strata in the United States, including a segment of the political circles there, against the deceptive moves of the Johnson administration and their action for an end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam, despite savage repression by the U.S. Government. He stressed that the American people, with their glorious traditions of struggle for independence and freedom, will certainly broaden their drive for an end by the U.S. Government to its unjust, dirty war in Viet Nam.

Mr. Ha Van Lau also paid tribute to the world's peoples' "support Viet Nam" movement which was particularly active in many countries on the occasion of the recent 14th signing anniversary of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

He then recalled what Minister Xuan Thuy had declared at a previous session:

"The wisest thing for the U.S. does not consist in continuing its policy of intervention and aggression which is going bankrupt, it does not consist either in continuing to deceive public opinion, but it consists in stopping in all good faith, immediately and unconditionally, the bombings and other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. in order that other problems of interest to both parties could be promptly discussed."

In his speech, U.S. representative Averell Harriman stubbornly but awkwardly tried to justify the U.S. unwillingness to put an unconditional end to its bombing raids and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. He reiterated the familiar "North Vietnamese aggression against South Viet Nam" charge and brazenly demanded recognition of the Saigon puppets' right to receive U.S. "aid." Again, he referred to the Manila October 1966 communiqué to justify the maintenance of U.S. and satellite troops in South Viet Nam.

Basing himself on the so-called "White Book" just handed out to pressmen in Paris by Prince Souvanna Phouma, Mr. Harriman spoke at length, charging North Viet Nam with "intervention" in Laos and "encroachment on the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos."

Ambassador Ha Van Lau firmly refuted all these allegations of the U.S. side. He said that the U.S., as usual, had tried to make black white. Yet, he pointed out, there is no denying that the U.S. itself is the aggressor in South Viet Nam and the saboteur of the peace in South-East Asia.

He dismissed all the brazen slanders by the U.S. and Prince Souvanna Phouma. With factual evidence, he proved that the U.S. had all the time intervened in Lao affairs, systematically wrecked the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and the Tripartite National Union Government in Laos.

"It is with the aim of misleading public opinion and shirking the real issue which is the ending of its bombing raids and all other war acts on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. that the U.S. side has brought up the Lao question," Mr Ha Van Lau concluded.

The Paris Talks...

(Continued from page 1)

the South" figment. They have even mentioned the "supreme American principle" supposedly consisting of altruism and responsible for their sending to Viet Nam half a million men armed to the teeth! As if they had never before committed intervention and aggression! Neither in Korea in 1950, nor in Cuba in 1962. Not even in Viet Nam during the dirty war waged by the French colonialists against the Vietnamese people, when 78.25 per cent of the French military expenditures were covered by U.S. aid. At that moment, it was simply impossible to invoke any "aggression" by North Vietnamese against their Southern blood brothers!

ARTIFICIAL OPTIMISM

SUCH is the true picture of the D.R.V.N.-U.S.A. talks in Paris. It is not a bright one and the responsibility for this lies with the Americans.

Yet, American official personalities and propaganda like to inject, at almost regular intervals, doses of optimism into public opinion regarding these talks.

At the May 15 session, Mr Harriman took pains to underline important "similarities" between the views of North Viet Nam and those of Washington. For instance, he observed that both sides had referred to the 1954 Geneva Agreements as the basis for the restoration of peace. No further demonstration that the American representative's argument was pure sophistry is needed after publication of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Memorandum on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the signing of these Accords. The substance of the Geneva Agreements is international recognition of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, from which a solution for the military problem derived. But for the American aggressors, those Agreements are reduced in the main to an Accord on the cessation of hostilities and in particular to the setting up of a demilitarized zone between North and South! Such an interpretation fits in very well with American designs to perpetuate the division of Viet Nam and, to this end, slanderously charge the North with "aggression" against the South.

Another way of stirring up artificial optimism is to disseminate the "coffee breaks" rumours.

It should be recalled that Mr Harriman had proposed that declarations during the talks not be made public, and that the Vietnamese side had not agreed. But the American negotiators have taken it into their heads that they should give the impression that bargaining behind the scenes was under way. Hence the concocted story about the "coffee breaks," during which, according to American propaganda, "substantial exchanges" took place between the two sides. Vietnamese official personalities in Paris have repeatedly denied those rumours. How could anyone imagine that a country whose sovereignty is being violated could agree to bargaining and concessions? Clearly this is an American manoeuvre aimed at throwing confusion into people's minds and, once again, putting the aggressor and his victim on an equal footing.

AMERICAN TRUE INTENTIONS

BY creating the false impression that the Paris talks are making headway, the men in the White House and the State Department are obviously seeking to soothe public opinion, first of all American opinion. The presidential election campaign is reaching a critical stage with the approach of the conventions to be held by the great traditional parties. Everyone knows that the Viet Nam problem is holding the headlines. And so the Johnson propaganda machine is trying to induce the public to believe that this problem is on the way to a good settlement in Paris, thanks to the Johnson-Humphrey wise policy. To those Americans or people in other countries who are getting impatient about the rate of progress at the Paris talks and demanding an immediate and unconditional end to the bombing of the D.R.V.N. so that other problems of concern to both parties might be discussed, this propaganda will say: "Don't you see that American good will shown in the limited bombing has borne fruits and that one should abstain from all dramatic move, things being very ticklish; there are similarities in the views held by the two sides, and confidential exchanges are under way."

Under cover of such a propaganda, things will stagnate in Paris, while the conditioning of people's minds and psychological warfare strive to make people believe that the D.R.V.N. is ready for compromises, hence, that the American position is, for a good part, correct. Meanwhile, in Viet Nam, the U.S. intensifies its war of aggression in the hope of improving its position.

THE PEOPLES ARE VIGILANT

THE men in Washington have reckoned without the vigilance of the American people and the world people. Since early July, coinciding with the anniversary of the signing of the 1954 Geneva accords, a new awakening of the masses' political consciousness has taken place in the U.S.A. and other countries of the world. More strongly than ever resound millions of voices demanding an immediate and unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts of war by the U.S.A. on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. Echoing this unanimous aspiration, outstanding scientists, jurists, religious people, playwrights, writers, statesmen have raised their voices. For everyone realizes that this is a *sine qua non* condition for the Paris talks to progress. Marking time for too long a period may gradually lead towards the abyss as a result of underhand actions by the imperialists.

THE NORTH — GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

DEVELOPMENT OF WATER CONSERVANCY IN WAR CONDITIONS

HA KE TAN
D.R.V.N. Minister of Water Conservancy

VIET NAM is a tropical agricultural country. Cultivable land is mostly in narrow areas, with high gradients. The amount of rainfall is considerable but concentrated within a few months of the year, hence water-logging and floods. On the other hand, there are long spells of drought. There is also the problem of eroded, aluminous and salt land (in the coastal areas). That is why water conservancy work plays a decisive role in ensuring successes for agricultural production, Viet Nam's main branch of economic activity.

Right from the start of their air and naval war of destruction, the Yankee aggressors have aimed their blows at the "stomach" of the North, and tried to impose this choice on its people: either to submit, or "return to the Stone Age." In 1966 and 1967, three thousand attacks were launched on water conservancy works and dykes, with increasing fury particularly in the flood seasons. But our progress in this field has not been hindered at all. Everywhere, people continue to engage in water conservancy work while hitting back vigorously at the truculent American air pirates. Irrigation works and dykes are well protected, quickly repaired in case of damage, and serve production campaigns on schedule. One may say that the American imperialists have utterly failed to inflict any serious harm, contrary to their boast and expectations. On the contrary, they have suffered the loss of many planes, shot down right over their targets.

In the years 1964-1965 and 1966-1967, two water conservancy plans were carried into effect, basically to cope with natural calamities still threatening agricultural production and to streamline preparations to face enemy attacks. Millions of people were mobilised for hydraulic schemes. Parallel to special training given to other production brigades, in each agricultural co-operative a water conservancy brigade is organised and entrusted with the task of building irrigation works in accordance with technical norms, while striving to save money and time. This brigade supervises the management and use of local irrigation projects, regulates irrigation and drainage in accordance with plant physiology, and ensure their defence.

The area of lands suffering from drought, waterlogging, alum and saltiness has gradually decreased. The area of rice-land adequately watered has increased from 84.5% in 1964 to 86.5% in 1967; that under secondary food crops from 29.8% to 38%; 49.6% of the area under industrial crops is irrigated. There is a fourfold rise in irrigated area, compared with French colonial times. The dyke network has been strengthened and consolidated, and has proved capable of withstanding the greatest floods.

Together with other technical measures, this has brought about a notable gain in agricultural output. Whereas in 1964 only two districts in North Viet Nam achieved a rice yield of 5 tons per hectare per year (under the colonial and feudal regime, the output was 1.3 tons), in 1967 this result was achieved by over 30 districts, comprising 14% of the total area of riceland. Similar advances have been recorded regarding secondary food crops and industrial crops.

The face of the countryside has radically changed. The innumerable tiny plots of uneven levels of the past have been re-arranged into wide expanses of regular-shaped fields with straight-running irrigation and drainage channels.

Water conservancy works have created tens of thousands of kilometres of roads and waterways serving the rural areas. Traffic penetrates into the remotest hamlets and promotes cultural and economic development.

Fish rearing in ricefields, ponds and water reservoirs brings in thousands of tons of fish every year. Millions of trees which are a great economic asset have been planted along the channels and ditches.

In the mountain regions, the development of water conservancy has brought into being hundreds of small hydroelectric stations, which promote mechanical engineering, the processing of agricultural and forest products, and supply electric power to remote areas inhabited by minority nationalities.

Thanks to water conservancy work, agricultural production in North Viet Nam has been stabilised and is undergoing steady and all-sided development. The life of the collective peasantry has been gradually improved, which has strengthened their ties with the co-operatives. Production relations have been consolidated; the agricultural co-operatives, which keep growing into larger ones, have become units of socialist production, with high productive and combat capabilities.

A reservoir in X. village, Quynh Lua district, Nghe An province, to keep water for rice growing.

During their 80-year rule over the country, the French colonialists paid little attention to water conservancy. Natural calamities and famine were rampant, the most ghastly illustration being the two million people starved to death in early 1945. The few works the French did construct they later destroyed during their second war of colonialist aggression.

After the return of peace in July 1954, the people of North Viet Nam, after only five months of intensive effort, succeeded in restoring the whole former water conservancy network, in time for the 1955 cultivation season. All the dykes were also consolidated.

The Viet Nam Workers' Party and the D.R.V.N. Government consider "water conservancy the foremost technical measure in agriculture" and hold that it should be carried out "parallel with agricultural co-operation." They put forward the following policy, and give resolute guidance for its implementation by the entire people: "to combine big, medium and small-sized projects; to combine water preservation, irrigation and drainage; to combine efforts of the State and the people." A sizable part of the annual budget is devoted to water conservancy, and every year the whole people are mobilized to take their share in the works. In 1964, 84.5% of the area planted with rice and 29.8% of that under secondary food crops were irrigated.

Electrification of P...

TO bring electricity to P., an out-of-the-way locality in the mountain province of Cao Bang is to take up a wager and to install seven kilometres of electric wire uphill and downdale for electric pumps to irrigate the parched ricefields, is tantamount to accepting an even tougher challenge.

When team leader Tran Tu made known the plan, some one grumbled: "Seven kilometres of wire to be fixed up seven days, in this remote corner where everything is lacking and where not even a foot track can be found, what an uphill job!"

Other voices were heard, "Where can we find sand, pebble, screws, cross-pieces right away?"

"And the carts for the electric poles?"

Though they groused, nobody refused the work as they had seen hundreds of hectares of withered winter-spring crop and thousands of hectares of ricefields belonging to co-operatives S. and D. waiting for water to be tilled. Den, the team Party secretary said, "Under these trying circumstances we must display our revolutionary zeal and save the crop. This is vital for the co-op farmers. Are you resolved to overcome difficulties and carry through your task?"

All the teammates replied unanimously: "We are!"

THE night was well advanced but Nguyen Van Thanh and Nguyen Thi Nhiem were still bucking down on the map to find the shortest way to carry materials so that work could begin as soon as possible. Meanwhile, charges of dynamite to bore holes for the planting of electric poles exploded without interruption, echoing thunderingly to the mountain side.

As explosive was running short iron bars were used to dig nearly one hundred holes. Bags of cement and 450-kg poles were carried on men's shoulders over mountain slopes to their homes. The number of poles erected daily rose steadily: 14, then 17, and finally 21 poles. To save time for the workers, meals were brought to the working site in turns by the cooks Van and Hien who, by their initiative, contributed to raising the labour efficiency of the workers. Office employees also lent a hand by transporting materials on their bicycles from 50 or 60km away. Women covered 5 or 6km of jungle track to bring on their backs poles, sand and pebble needed for the construction. Immediately after erection, each pole was consolidated at its base and equipped with cross-pieces and insulators, and wire was connected straight away.

The installation work completed on the sixth day. On that day, as soon as the switchboard of B. power station was commissioned, the water flowed in to the great joy of the farmers who flocked on the banks of the canal to see the water coming.

NEW POLITICAL UPHEAVALS IN SAIGON

AT the moment when the U.S. and its puppets are daily and hourly haunted by the fear of a new wave of offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam people, Saigon is again in the throes of political upheavals caused by new developments of the people's struggle.

OPEN OPPOSITION TO U.S. AGGRESSIVE WAR

FACED with the U.S.-puppet stubborn efforts to prosecute the aggressive war in spite of their obvious failure, thus wreaking destruction and death right in the towns and cities, the urban population were compelled to make the choice promptly: either to let themselves be dragged by the war chariot of the White House to useless death and sacrifices, or to resist it by all possible means. At a press conference on June 13, 1968 the Saigon Students' Representative Council which represents 14 faculties of the Saigon University condemned the prolongation of the war resulting from "the ambition of domination by foreigners (i.e. the U.S.-*Ed.*) which has increased the suffering and tragedy of the country." A declaration to this effect said that all the South Viet Nam people want is that "Viet Nam must be ensured independence, peace and freedom so that the people have the opportunity to start building their country."

The students have not only voiced their protest aloud. In the paper *Sinh Vien* (Student), their official organ, they have put out many articles with an unmistakingly anti-American tone, calling on the population "to rise up against the white-faced enemy". The paper *Cho Dung* (Standpoint) of the Saigon Teachers' Training College openly said that "the presence of American and allied troops is illegal," that it is this presence which has created chaos in the South Viet Nam society, caused the decadence of culture and "led everything to impasse and depravation." The Saigon ruling circles have ordered the arrest of the leaders of the paper *Sinh Vien* and jailed them. The Saigon students have openly come out against this brutal repression.

On June 29, 1968, an organisation named "The Action Forces of South Viet Nam Working People" met in Saigon with the participation of representative of grass-root "legal" trade unions in Saigon, the "Association for the Protection of the Dignity and Interests of Women," small traders from all markets in the Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh area, the Executive Committee of the Students' General Association and the Saigon Students' Council. The Congress condemned the prolongation of the war by the U.S. and urged that the Saigon puppet administration change its policy in order to bring back peace to the country. The Congress endorsed the stand of the students' organisations, and called for unity of action.

Leaders of the Buddhist and Catholic churches in Saigon have also issued appeals for an end to the war and restoration of peace. In defiance of the intimidation by the puppet authorities, many intellectuals, politicians and press circles have publicly voiced their viewpoints. At a teach-in held on July 13, 1968, a number of personalities including deputies to the puppet Lower House, professors and clergymen reflected the spreading neutralist tendency in South Viet Nam with their demand of a "South Viet Nam without foreign military bases."

The movement of the South Viet Nam people against the U.S. aggressive war has found concrete expressions in the actions against the puppets' efforts to exact more manpower and material resources for the implementation of the White House's military plans. On June 28, nine days after puppet President Nguyen Van Thieu promulgated the "general mobilisation" law, the Saigon Students' General Association issued a communique denouncing this decree as "a scheme of the military dictator aimed at wiping out the opposition forces." Earlier, many students' organisations had issued statements urging dissolution of the so-called "Students' Division to Defend the Capital" which, they said, is in reality meant "to push the students to die for the U.S. and puppet troops." The students had resisted orders to go to battle, destroyed the arms distributed to them, deserted or joined the revolution. The Saigon students' actions received warm support from the students' parents and the Saigon population of all walks of life. They elicited wide response from the students, youths and teachers in My Tho, Long Xuyen, Cao Lanh, Tho An and elsewhere, who have been struggling in different forms against forcible conscription and the so called "civil defence."

GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE N.F.L. AND THE V.N.A.N.D.P.F.

IT is safe to say that the above said development of the open political struggle is inseparable from the growing influence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces as well as of the National Front for Liberation, which is a source of deep anxiety for the enemy.

In mid-July 1968 the Saigon puppet administration staged a trial and sentenced to death in absentia the leaders of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. on charges of "treason" and "peace and neutrality tendency." This followed an intensive campaign or repression, in one form or another, against the newly emerging political tendencies which the Saigon puppets judge dangerous to them.

But the enemy have failed as proved by the complete indifference of the public before their trial farce. On the contrary, this "trial" has boomeranged on its own stage-manager since it has, in reality, brought to the fore the role of the Alliance before the public, as recognized by Western correspondents themselves. Foreign observers in Saigon are unanimous to note that though only of recent date the Alliance has been exerting a major influence among the middle and upper strata of the South Viet Nam population. Western news agencies reported that in the previous months many student and youth organisations had fallen victim to repression by the Saigon authorities because of their preparations to stage demonstrations in support of the Alliance. However, no act of repression could prevent many people from giving up their old life and secretly joining the fighting ranks of the Alliance.

The recent formation of the Saigon branch of the Alliance is a convincing proof. It is headed by Professor Le Van Giap, a one-time President of the "Forces to Safeguard the National Culture," a legal organisation in Saigon. Its General Secretary is Ho Van Nhut, former President of the Saigon Students' General Association, who had once been impressed into the puppet army for his anti-government activities. Many of the members of the branch are former student leaders, intellectuals, national capitalists, etc...

The National Salvation Manifesto of the Alliance has had a great impact on various strata of the people because it shows the reasonable and sensible way to attain a solution of the Viet Nam problem and because it advocates a line of independence, democracy, peace and neutrality for South Viet Nam. At present, the demand for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, negotiation with the N.F.L. and the formation of a national and democratic coalition government in Saigon has became a daily talk of the South Vietnamese people. The U.S. paper *New Republic* on June 22, 1968 wrote that although to advocate peace and neutrality was considered a crime by the Thieu-Ky regime, the students, and Buddhist and Catholic leaders had been persistently campaigning for an end to the war, a coalition government and a neutral South Viet Nam. From the ruins of Hue and Saigon, the paper said, there had emerged an organisation that is to play a major role in the above said efforts: it was the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces which, together with the National Front for Liberation, may proclaim itself to represent the entire population.

The activities of patriotic anti-American organisations have caused a stir among U.S. puppets themselves. Faced with the obvious failure of the U.S. and the marvellous stamina of the revolutionary forces, and motivated by conflicting interests, the puppets have been divided more and more on how to carry on the war, and how to solve the Viet Nam problem. These differences have widened noticeably since the U.S. was compelled to accept the official conversations with the D.R.V.N. in Paris.

The above-mentioned political upheavals are hastening the failure of the U.S. military efforts and the disintegration of the Thieu-Ky regime in face of the continual offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam revolutionary forces.

FROM AUGUST 5, 1964 TO DATE

FOUR YEARS OF U.S. CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN THE D. R. V. N.

FOUR years have elapsed since the first attack by U.S. aircraft against the D.R.V.N. on August 5, 1964. How many monstrous crimes they have heaped up since then?

The July 20, 1968 declaration of the D.R.V.N. Commission for Investigation of U.S. Imperialists' Crimes Against the Vietnamese People revealed that all the six municipalities in North Viet Nam, including Hanoi and Haiphong, were subjected to hundreds of air attacks. In 800 air strikes, the town of Vinh received 15,000 bombs which destroyed 90 per cent of dwelling houses. 80 per cent of towns and townlets were savagely bombed or strafed, in 40 of which no dwelling houses were spared. The 3 sq.km town of Dong Hoi, 80 km north of the Ben Hai River, inhabited by 16,000 souls, was struck 1,129 times. Such village as Vinh Tan (Vinh Linh zone), an area 1.2 sq.km large where live 1,500 people, was raided over 3,000 times by U.S. air and naval craft. Up to the end of 1967, for each inhabitant in that village there have been 24 heavy bombs and 190 shells on the average, not including steel-pellet bombs and other smaller bombs.

The Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex, the Quang Ninh coal mining area, the textile city of Nam Dinh were all raided. Roads, waterways, river mouths, landing places, ferries, even small boats, pontoon bridges, rafts were the targets of air attacks.

Most savage was the destruction by U.S. aircraft of 161 hospitals, 632 schools, 312 churches and 3 monasteries and 134 temples and pagodas in the years 1965, 1966 and 1967. What is more perfidious, the U.S. imperialists mounted over 3,000 air raids on flood-protecting dykes and hydraulic works in an attempt to starve millions of people to death.

Since March 31, 1968 U.S. propaganda services have been trumpeting the so-called "limited bombing of North Viet Nam." In fact, since that date the number of air sorties has been greatly increased. On May 28, 1968, U.S. Defence Secretary Clark M. Clifford pointed out that from 5,000 sorties in February 1968, U.S. aircraft flew 5,000 sorties in March, 7,000 in April and 10,000 in each of the recent months. On July 11, Clifford made it clear to pressmen that concentrated bombings south of the 20th parallel were more efficient than bombing on larger areas. The number of bombs dropped shows also a sharp increase. According to American statistics, from February 7, 1965 to the end of 1967, 1,840,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Viet Nam (650,000 tons on the North), but in 1968, as General D.L. Crow reported to the House of Representatives, the tonnage of U.S. bombs released on Viet Nam was 67,000 in January, 78,100 in February and 91,700 in March. Paul H. Nitze, Deputy Secretary for Defence, stressed that the tonnage of bombs used on the area between the 17th and 20th parallel had risen instead of going down. General D.L. Crow added that B.52 sorties on the North had been up too.

There is no denying the fact that the more Johnson displays his "will for peace" by words, the more savage are U.S. raids on North Viet Nam.

But, over the past four years, the aggressors have been duly punished: they have sustained heavy losses in airmen and in planes.

More than ever, in their own interest, and for the sake of humanitarianism, peace and the friendship among nations, broad sections of the American people have strongly raised their voices to demand that the men in Washington unconditionally end the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. This is also the demand of people all over the world.

American Lawyers' Viewpoint:

THE UNITED STATES IS NOT IN LAW AND FAIRNESS ENTITLED TO DEMAND ANY COUNTER-CONCESSION FROM THE D.R.V.N.

Editor's Note: *At the "World Conference of Lawyers for Viet Nam," Grenoble, 6-10 July, 1968, Mr. Joseph H. Crown, Secretary, Lawyers' Committee on American Policy Towards Viet Nam and Prof. John H.E. Fried, member of Consultative Council of Lawyers' Committee, submitted a paper dealing with the "illegality of U.S. demands for reciprocity as a condition for the cessation of bombing of North Viet Nam." We give below excerpts from that paper.*

THE American people — ever generous in forgetting and forgiving their Government's mistakes — are so eager to see that tragic war ended that they considered the President's statement of March 31, 1968, as a fulfilment of their hopes for peace. Evidently, the President's announcement not to seek re-election contributed to the feeling that "the war is virtually over." However, the acts and attitudes of the Administration since March 31, indicate that such optimism is unfounded.

THE U.S. DEMAND FOR "COUNTER-CONCESSIONS" BY THE NORTH

THERE is great danger that even the preliminary talks in Paris will flounder on the American insistence on "counter-concessions" by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

In any negotiation, national or international, either party is in law and fairness entitled to demand counter-concessions only under two conditions: first, that the party making such demand has itself made a concession to begin with; and secondly that it has given up something which it has a right *not* to give up and for which, therefore, it can exact a price. Evidently, the party that had been acting improperly and is now ready to stop its improper action, does not really concede anything: it merely belatedly stops doing what it should not have done before.

The United States is in the latter position. It has for years been conducting an illegal war against North Viet Nam. Hence, the United States could not, in law or fairness, demand "counter-concessions" if it were to stop that illegal war.

Furthermore, and quite apart from this argument, the United States is not in a position to demand "counter-concessions," because the United States has so far not made any true concession.

WHAT CONCESSION HAS THE UNITED STATES MADE?

IN order to judge which side has so far made concessions, it must first be recalled that for a long time, the North set *several* conditions for the start of negotiations — conditions which were correct, in view of the illegality of U.S. military intervention in the South as well as against the North.

The Democratic Republic has, therefore, conceded considerably by reducing its demands to one rock-bottom condition, namely, that the United States stop permanently all acts of war against it.

This demand has been backed as fair and proper by an ever-increasing number of Americans in all walks of life, by world public opinion and an ever increasing number of leaders of nations; and it has been insistently backed by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

However, the President *did not make this "concession."* Within hours after his March 31 speech, it transpired that his ambiguous statement about suspending the bombing of North Viet Nam except north of the Demilitarized Zone, actually meant only a change in strategy. Instead of bombing various areas of the Democratic Republic, the bombing was to be concentrated on its southern part, which since then has been subjected to even more furiously concentrated bombing than before.

Furthermore, this constitutes only a *suspension* and not, as the Democratic Republic has demanded, a *permanent* cessation of the bombings and all other acts of war, including, for example, so-called reconnaissance overflights over the territory and the territorial waters of the Democratic Republic.

Has the U.S. made any other "concession" or de-escalated its war in any other manner? On the contrary. The number of American soldiers in Viet Nam has increased, and is scheduled to grow still further; and the cruel and often flagrantly illegal *conduct* of the American war has not changed...

IS HANOI'S DEMAND FOR PERMANENT CESSATION OF ALL U.S. WAR ACTIONS AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC UNFAIR?

ON the other hand, it would be unwise to overlook Hanoi's demand for the U.S. pledge of *permanent* cessation of *all* U.S. war actions against the North, as a pre-condition for the start of substantive peace negotiations. Is this demand, without any "counter-concession," unfair? Since the American people are already being conditioned to blame North Viet Nam if the preliminary talks should break down over this issue, the facts of the situation should be as widely understood as possible.

Again, in order to judge the fairness of this demand, it must first be reiterated that, for the very long period of three and half years, the U.S. subjected North Viet Nam and its people to merciless and horrible bombardments, and that this was in flagrant violation of the U.N. Charter, and of generally accepted principles of international law.

However, even if we, for argument's sake, disregard this fact, although it can never be disregarded — we are first struck by the fact that numerous well-informed and fair-minded persons everywhere, including Americans, have long since strongly advocated the immediate, unconditional and permanent cessation of the U.S. war against North Viet Nam, even *without* basing this demand on the illegality of that U.S. war. The reasons are, indeed, compelling:

a) One reason which has been for a long time been persuasively emphasized for example, by U Thant, is that this step is incumbent upon the United States because the United States is by far the most powerful belligerent in the conflict and it is, therefore, exclusively in the hands of the United States to make the first decisive and necessary step toward the end of the conflict. The implication is clear: Even after the U.S. has stopped its war against the North, U.S. military superiority is still so immense that, of all parties, only the U.S.A. can take such a step without jeopardizing its military posture with regard to *South Viet Nam*—which is the true issue in the conflict.

b) The demand for "counter-concession" is an appeal to fairness, or reciprocity: neither party should have an "unfair" advantage over the other. In this respect, it must not be forgotten that throughout this war, the U.S. has arrogated to itself the "right" to avail itself of every conceivable "unfair" advantage over a small pre-industrial country. It is the contest between the last-minute, huge cargo plane versus the ox-cart, the bicycle and, indeed, man's back. Only the U.S.A. has been able in this war to obtain "allied" combat troops (especially from its client regime in Korea); to induce another client regime (Thailand) to provide huge bases and other support for U.S. war actions against South Viet Nam; only the U.S. has been able to use bases as far away as Okinawa and the Philippines; only the U.S. can send its battle fatigued soldiers to far-away recreation areas; —and all this does not take into account that the people and territory of the U.S. have been absolutely safe from any military action as result of this war. When the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam declared that his Government was ready to pledge not to bomb the territory and people of the U.S. in consideration of a U.S. pledge not to bomb the D.R.V.N., Mr. Harriman called this statement "fantastic." His reaction was revealing, although he was probably not even aware of the "arrogance of power" it revealed. Nothing proves more fully the "colonial" character of the U.S. war in Viet Nam than did this dismissal, as preposterous, of even the hint that this could become a true war, with equal risks to all parties. And yet, the possibility should not be excluded. If the negotiations fail, the Viet Nam war may still, as U Thant, solemnly warned, lead to a world conflagration.

In short, the U.S. has been waging a *"unilateral war,"* wherein it takes for granted not only its immense technological, numerical and financial superiority but also its complete monopoly of combat air and naval power, in addition to the advantages just mentioned. In view of this, is it not fair that only the complete cessation of U.S. war actions against the North can be taken as an "earnest" of U.S. readiness to bring the conflict to an end.

c) However, even if all of these arguments were discarded, there still remains another which, in and of itself, proves beyond dispute, that not only partial suspension but also complete cessation of U.S. war actions against North Viet Nam is not a concession at all, because it will only, with tragic delay, stop a grievous wrong that should never have been started in the first place. We are referring to the frequent, admissions, from U.S. officials knowledgeable as former Secretary of Defense, Mr. McNamara himself, that the U.S. bombings of North Viet Nam were of no military value and were, in fact, "counter-productive."

This admission is not only of the utmost military, but of the utmost legal significance. Since these bombings have been and are of no military value for the United States, but they have been are, of course, very destructive to North Viet Nam, they thus constitute "wanton destruction" — of property as well as of human lives. Wanton destruction is specifically forbidden by the universally binding laws and customs of war, and also by the Hague Convention No IV of 1907. The bombing of *any* part of North Viet Nam is therefore doubly illegal: firstly because the United States has had no right to wage war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and furthermore in so far as it has constituted wanton destruction. In fact, the bombing of North Viet Nam has variously been "justified" by the assertion that, although it did not bring military advantages to the United States in the real theater of war, namely the South, it has constituted a *"punishment"* for North Viet Nam.

Needless to say, under the most elementary rules of international conduct that long antecode the U.N. Charter and even the Hague Convention of 1907, no country is permitted to "punish" any people or any territory by unilateral destruction of lives and property. This would be true *even if* the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam *were* the aggressor; for, it is an unchallenged basic principle of the law of warfare that its rules, including absolute prohibition of wanton destruction, apply also to the aggressor.

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IT follows from these considerations that, even if the illegality of the U.S. war against the North Viet Nam were disregarded, the demand for permanent cessation of that war is justified by fairness, by military logic, and pursuant to the basic rules of warfare; and that such stoppage does not call for "counter cessation," because it will constitute merely a belated cessation of a wrong.

Viet Nam Leaders Greet World Youth Festival

FOLLOWING is the text of the message of congratulation sent by Premier Pham Van Dong to the Festival:

"On behalf of the Vietnamese people and the D.R.V.N. Government, I wish to convey my warmest greetings to the 9th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Sofia.

"I am convinced that your Festival will be a powerful manifestation of the militant solidarity of the youth and students in the world in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and all the reactionary forces led by U.S. imperialism, for national independence, democracy and social progress and for a lasting peace and the radiant future of the young people the world over.

"Together with the world's peoples, the youth and students of all countries have made a great contribution to the broad and powerful international movement of support to the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

"In response to this noble support, the Vietnamese people have shown their high determination to fight and to defeat the U.S. aggressors in their own national interests and in the interests of the whole progressive mankind.

"For the youth as for all other sections of the people of different countries, nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. Although the fight is still hard, the Vietnamese people, who have been enjoying vigorous support from the socialist countries and the world's peoples including the powerful and ardent forces of the youth and students, will certainly win final victory.

"I sincerely thank the Festival and all progressive youths and students in the world for their warm support to the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. I wish your Festival full success."

LAWYER Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee, has also sent the gathering a message in which he expressed his thanks for its activities in support of Viet Nam. He said:

"I am convinced that the Festival will take active measures to help step up further the struggle against imperialism and colonialism led by U.S. imperialism — common enemy of peace-loving people all over the world.

"I wish great successes to the struggle for peace, independence, democracy and social progress and for the bright future of the youth of all countries."

"SOLIDARITY WITH VIET NAM" DAY AT WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

REPRESENTATIVES of the youth from 113 countries attending the 9th World Festival of Youth and Students in Sofia on July 29 held a rally inaugurating a "Day of Solidarity with the Vietnamese People Struggling Against U.S. Aggression."

The participants displayed placards reading, "Yankees, hands off Viet Nam!" and "Stop barbarous bombing of D.R.V.N.!"

The gathering warmly hailed the message of greeting sent by Premier Pham Van Dong to the Festival.

Addressing the audience, Ta Quang Chien, Head of the D.R.V.N. youth delegation, highlighted the great successes of the Vietnamese people in the fight against U.S. aggression. He sincerely thanked the progressive youth and students the world over for their active support to fighting Viet Nam.

Youth delegates from many countries took the floor to denounce the U.S. imperialists' aggression and reaffirmed their support to, and sympathy with, the Vietnamese people's just struggle.

The rally passed a petition condemning the criminal aggression by the U.S. imperialists in Viet Nam and demanding an immediate and unconditional end to the U.S. bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam.

Afterwards, the North and South Viet Nam youth delegations attended the opening of a photo exhibition on Viet Nam. Among the exhibits were fragments of several types of U.S. aircraft shot down in North Viet Nam and rudimentary weapons used by South Vietnamese guerillas.

On the "Solidarity with Viet Nam" Day, the Festival also staged a truck parade called "Solidarity Convoy" to carry the gifts offered by the youth delegations to the Vietnamese people.

The convoy also included a bus and ambulance presented by Bulgarian children to their Vietnamese counterparts.

On July 27, the delegates organized a labour day at construction sites and rural areas near Sofia to raise funds for Viet Nam.

The same day, a cordial meeting took place between the Vietnamese and Soviet youths at the Festival.

Many solidarity meetings with Viet Nam were held on July 29 in various parts of Sofia.

Also on July 29 more than 100 West German students and many other foreign youth delegates staged a protest demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in Sofia. They waved signs reading, "For the victory of the Vietnamese Revolution" and "For the right to self-determination of the Vietnamese people", and shouted: "Ho Chi Minh! Ho Chi Minh!"

On the same occasion Vietnamese films were screened in Sofia's major cinemas.

D.R.V.N. AND SOUTH YEMEN ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

"DESIROUS of strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the People's Republic of South Yemen have agreed to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at ambassadorial level."

(Joint communiqué between the D.R. of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of South Yemen signed on July 24 in Cairo, U.A.R.)

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's APPEAL STRONGLY SUPPORTED ABROAD

MANY Party and State leaders have expressed their warm welcome to the appeal issued by President Ho Chi Minh on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the signing of 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

● On July 23, M. Chumaunkad, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the **U.S.S.R.**, said:

"The Vietnamese people are waging a just struggle against the U.S. aggressors. As in the past and at present, the Soviet Union will give all necessary support to the heroic Vietnamese people. There is no doubt that this appeal of President Ho Chi Minh will be warmly supported by the entire Soviet people and the Soviet Government."

● Kim Il Sung, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Premier of the Government of the **D.P.R. of Korea**, sent on July 22 to President Ho Chi Minh a message which reads:

"Since the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements recognizing the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has been consistently and strictly abiding by them and resolutely fighting for the implementation of the basic principles stipulated in the agreements.

But the U. S. imperialist aggressors, right from after the signing of the Geneva Agreements, have wantonly sabotaged and violated them, created puppet regimes in South Viet Nam and unleashed an aggressive war against the Vietnamese people with the aim of perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam and turning South Viet Nam into a colony, and a military base for aggression."

● On July 24, Heinrich Hoffmann, Deputy Chairman of the State Council of the **German Democratic Republic**, said:

"On the occasion of July 20 and in face of the stubborn attitude of the U.S. side at the Paris talks, it is necessary to point out that the U.S. has sabotaged the Geneva Agreements right from the beginning. But no manoeuvres of the Johnson administration, including the fooling, of public opinion, can hide the fact that the U.S. imperialists have provoked the aggressive war in Viet Nam. That is why the Vietnamese people have the unlimited right to self-defence."

● On July 14, Marian Spychalski, President of the State Council of the **People's Republic of Poland**, stated:

"Polish public opinion has been condemning more and more strongly the U.S. war in Viet Nam. It has pointed out the failure, obdurate attitude and isolation of the U.S. in the world at large. The U.S. attitude at the Paris conversations proves that Johnson still refuses to admit that failure. Therefore, we must struggle still more powerfully to force the U.S. imperialists to withdraw. The heroic Vietnamese people's struggle is an important link of the struggle against imperialism. This struggle helps the revolutionary forces in other countries to develop and inspires the people in the imperialist countries to stand up to oppose the ruling circles."

● On July 26, Ludwik Svoboda, President of the **Czechoslovak Socialist Republic**, said:

"We will do all in our power to support the Vietnamese people morally and materially. The Vietnamese people are resolutely supported not only by the peoples of the other socialist countries but also by the peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world. I am convinced that the Vietnamese people will obtain complete victory in their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation."

● On July 20, Virgil Trofin, member of the Standing Presidium and Secretary of the Central Committee of the **Rumanian** Communist Party, declared:

"The Party, Government and people of Rumania not only follow the developments of the war in Viet Nam but also keep all our love for the Vietnamese people in their heroic struggle. We will do everything in our power to continue our material, moral, political and diplomatic support to the Vietnamese people's struggle. The Rumanian Party and Government and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation on the settlement of the Viet Nam issue."

● On July 23, Gueorgui Traikov, Chairman of the Presidium of the **People's Republic of Bulgaria**, stated:

"We have aided the Vietnamese people and will do our utmost to continue our assistance to them till final victory. The Bulgarian people and myself feel deep sympathy with the Vietnamese people and high esteem for President Ho Chi Minh.

"We highly value the Vietnamese people's successful foiling of all schemes of war intensification of the U.S. and inflicting heavy defeats on their enemy in all fields."

● On July 22, Odon Kishazi, Vice-President of the Presidium of the **Hungarian People's Republic**, said:

"Whatever perfidious and stubborn manoeuvres the U.S. imperialist aggressors may resort to, finally they will be defeated. The Vietnamese people's just fight, enjoying increasing support from the socialist camp and world public opinion, will certainly win victory. The Party, Government and people of Hungary, doing all in their power will go on wholeheartedly supporting the Vietnamese people's fight till complete victory."

● On July 23, President Z. Sambu, President of the Presidium of the **Mongolian** Great People's Hural, condemned the U.S. imperialists' open violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements and continued dirty colonialist war against the Vietnamese people. He sternly condemned the U.S. side's stubborn refusal at the Paris conversations to meet the rightful claim of the Viet Nam representative:

"The only way to settle correctly the Viet Nam issue is for the U.S. to accept the four points of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation."

● On July 24, Haxhi Lleshi, President of the Presidium of the National Assembly of the **People's Republic of Albania**, reaffirmed once more the all-out support of the Party, Government and people of Albania to the Vietnamese people's just struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, led by the Viet Nam Workers' Party with President Ho Chi Minh at its head and aimed at liberating the South, defending the North and achieving eventually the reunification of the country.

● In his message dated July 24, 1968, **Cambodian** Head of State Norodom Sihanouk wrote to President Ho Chi Minh:

"The cynical violation of the 1954 Agreements and the United Nations Charter by the American ruling circles who undertook to respect them is the unique cause of the second war in Viet Nam and of its consequences in the whole of South-East Asia. The Vietnamese people, fighting with admirable heroism against the American aggressors, are defending their sacred cause of national independence. Cambodia, which accords a political and moral support to the just struggle of Viet Nam and maintains no relations with the aggressors, ardently wishes that all the countries in the world demand from the American Government absolute respect for the 1954 Geneva Agreements and all international laws and conventions."

News from LAOS

Lao Patriotic Armed Forces Wiped Out Nearly 500 Enemy Troops in June

IN June, the first month of the current monsoon, the Lao patriotic armed forces mounted 50 attacks on the enemy throughout the country, putting out of action nearly 500 of them, capturing 165 weapons of various kinds, 15 radio sets and destroying a large quantity of other war means, *Pathet Lao* News Agency *KPL* reported.

In the northernmost province Phongsaly, the liberated zone has been further consolidated and widened since nearly one hundred more bandits were wiped out and many others disbanded last month. Foiling the enemy scheme to take advantage of the rainy season to nibble at the free zone, the patriotic armed forces in Lower Laos wiped out more than 200 enemy troops in the said period. In Xieng Khoang province, they put out of action nearly 150 and seized 87 weapons.

South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Representation Established in Rumania and Mongolia

ON July 30, 1968, the Commission for External Relations of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. issued a communique announcing that the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Rumania had agreed on the establishment of a permanent representation of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. in Rumania with the status of an official diplomatic mission.

The same day, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Commission for External Relations made public that the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and the Great National Hural of the People's Republic of Mongolia had agreed on the establishment of a permanent representation of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. to the Great National Hural.

(Continued from page 1)

Vainly did Johnson try to comfort Thieu at Honolulu by a high-flown communiqué, it is precisely his support to the Saigon regime which is undermining its foundation, just as his embrace bestowed on Nguyen Cao Ky in February 1966, also at Honolulu, could not prevent the latter's and his clique's downfall.

Does this mean that the men in Washington have drawn a lesson from those four years? Apparently not. Mr. Clifford pins his hopes on the M.16 rifles he is going to supply to the Saigon puppet army; General Abrams, who no longer dares to launch his marines and infantrymen into adventurous operations, continues however to bank on the B.52; Mr. Johnson goes right on vaunting the merits of the Saigon regime, and American negotiators in Paris are showing the same obstinacy.

THE LESSON OF AUGUST 5

At the start of the year 1954, warlike elements in the French government still believed that the Vietnamese resistance, following gigantic efforts, was about to flag. At present many a comment from Washington officials reflect the same state of mind. They still believe that the use of a few more new-fangled engines of war and an intensification of the bombing will subdue an out-of-breath Vietnamese resistance.

So true it is that men used to manipulate dollars and start unjustifiable wars deeply misunderstand the unshakable will of a people resolved to defend their independence and freedom. Whereas the G.I. on the battlefield and the air pilot who confronts North Vietnamese anti-aircraft defence perfectly know where they stand, the American leaders imagine with difficulty how flesh and blood could indefinitely stand up to fire and steel. They imagine with difficulty the tranquil courage with which the entire Vietnamese people, in both North and South, look forward to continued resistance so long as necessary. They cannot conceive of that serene confidence in victory felt by an entire people who are undergoing the worst trials to fight and win.

As in 1964, to General Abrams's sabre-rattling, to Dean Rusk's and Johnson's more or less veiled threats, the Vietnamese people, in both North and South, are opposing the same determination and considerably increased means of defence. More than ever, they feel confident: victory shall be theirs.

Victory of Giong Trom...

(Continued from page 8)

enjoyed total popular support.

In brief, this resounding victory is an eloquent proof of the irresistible force of people's war in South Viet Nam. It is the logical consequence of the extremely favourable situation brought about by the general offensive and widespread uprisings which have been going on since the end of January this year. It came as no surprise that its scene was Ben Tre province. It was in this province that in 1959, when dictator Ngo Dinh Diem used roving guillotines to drown all opposition to American intervention in blood, the famous monument "Dong Khoi" (simultaneous uprisings) was started, leading to the founding of the N.F.L. in 1960. It is also to be recalled that it was in this province, too, that the P.L.A.F. defeated the U.S. "Riverine Task Force" tactics which now suffered a new, heavy setback (since March this year, more than 100 vessels have been sunk by guerillas).

Lastly, the victory of Giong Trom on July 23 and 24 has lashingly dispelled the artificial optimism displayed by the U.S. puppet authorities who claimed that the military situation in South Viet Nam had been improving in their favour.

VIET NAM ALLIANCE DENOUNCES TRAN VAN HUONG CABINET

ON behalf of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Alliance, issued on July 14, 1968 a statement revealing the anti-popular and traitorous nature of the Tran Van Huong Cabinet and stressing that Washington's setting up of that government was tantamount to a confession of failure. Later, Engineer Lam Van Tet, the Alliance's Vice-President, answered questions put by a Liberation Radio correspondent on the same subject.

Why had Washington, at a time when it was meeting with many difficulties, to replace Nguyen Van Loc by Tran Van Huong as head of the puppet cabinet instead of trying to maintain a pretence of political stability in Saigon? In his statement Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao supplied the answer:

"Being well aware that its militarist stooges with their stupid and gangster-like nature, are much despised by the South Vietnamese people, Washington now uses Huong as a "civilian" screen with a programme which sounds less bellicose, in an effort to hoodwink and win over the masses. At the same time, it knock together various reactionary forces under its thumb, ranging from tyrants of the Party of Labour and Personalism (created by Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Nhuland the Viet Nam Kuomintang to the advocates of a separate Cochinchinese State (i.e. cutting off Nam Bo — South Viet Nam proper — from Viet Nam which has been a single country since time immemorial), trying its best to make use of a section of the local population's "anti-Communist" feelings born of prejudices against, and dissatisfaction with, the arbitrariness practiced by a number of reactionary functionaries who moved South from the North in the Ngo Dinh Diem time. The Americans have also been trying to win over the third force and a number of anti-popular and anti-religious leaders of various religions. By the agency of these forces, the U.S.-puppets scheme to rally to their cause the upper strata of the people and the middle-of-the-road faction."

This desperate effort, the statement added, is also intended to keep in check the ever growing development of the patriotic, national, united front against foreign aggression of the South Vietnamese people and, in the first place, to cope with the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, "in the hope of shaping up an alliance of traitors, a faked Front of National Union to serve more effectively the U.S. war, and securing a political position to the advantage of the U.S. in case it is compelled to accept a negotiated settlement."

These U.S. designs were also exposed by Engineer Lam Van Tet. The Alliance leaders further denounced the crimes committed by Huong since his rise to premiership: scraping man-power and material resources through the enforcement of the general mobilisation law to help the U.S. prolong its aggressive war; allowing residential areas in various cities to be bombed and shelled by defining free-bombing zones inside and around cities for the U.S.; cracking down on the people's patriotic and peace movement with fascist methods, and eliminating opposition elements through the anti-corruption trick, etc...

The statements by both Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao and Engineer Lam Van Tet pointed out that Tran Van Huong is a licensed traitor. In late 1964 and early 1965, as chief of the puppet cabinet, he was notorious for his suppression of the opposition movement involving Buddhists and students, his bribing over of anti-religious leaders, for the formation of reactionary organisations designed to divide Vietnese Buddhists, his planting of arms caches in pagodas to incriminate Buddhists, his jailing and physical liquidation of patriots, etc...

Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao and Engineer Lam Van Tet stressed that the members of the Huong cabinet were mostly members of the Party of Labour and Personalism, tyrants and C.I.A. agents including Tran Thien Khiem, Tran Chanh Thanh and Vu Quoc Thuc who had rendered effective service to the U.S. and owed many blood debts to the people.

The Alliance leaders were confident that the U.S. is doomed to failure in playing its Tran Van Huong trump-card, as a change of horses could only embitter the conflicts among its puppets and the divergences between servants and masters. The confidence gap about U.S. policy, the resentment and anxiety over a possible letdown by the U.S. are fomenting dissent among the puppet administration and army. The Huong Cabinet will meet with its premature death just as other short-term trumpcards produced by the U.S. in its last-ditch efforts have.

Military Operations

P.L.A.F. BIG VICTORY IN GIONG TROM DISTRICT

(Ben Tre Province, Mekong Delta) : 1,000 Enemy Soldiers Killed or Wounded, 14 Choppers and Planes Downed or Damaged

UNITS of U.S. Division 9 and puppet Division 7 have just suffered a heavy setback in **Giong Trom** district, 75 km southwest of Saigon, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported.

On July 23, after B.52's had raided the region, 3 enemy columns assaulted an area comprising 9 villages southwest of Ben Tre provincial capital. A riverine task force of 130 vessels carrying G.I.s of Brigade 1, U.S. Division 9, arrived by the Giong Trom river, while 70 landing craft with Battalion 3, Regiment 10, puppet Division 7, onboard came by the Ham Luong river. Meanwhile, playing the role of a wedge, Battalion 1 of the same puppet regiment was helifilted to Tan Hao village, link-up point of the two previous columns (see map).

Right from the beginning of the operation, the enemy met with a strong counter-attack of the people's forces composed of shock units of the regular army, regional troops and guerillas.

On the Giong Trom river, the "vessel-hunting" group, well hidden along the road between Ben Tre town and Luong Hoa village, hammered at the riverine task force and sank or burnt 16 G.I.-loaded landing craft in two localities. With 5 shells, a hunting group sank two LCT landing craft and burnt three others. The American column then mustered its force for a counter-attack on the P.L.A.F. from two directions but had to parry the latter's new blows and had 7 vessels more sunk or set afire. The remaining enemy forces were pinned down all the next day. On July 25, on their way back to Binh Duc base, the guerillas also sent an LCT to the bottom and burnt another.

Panic-stricken the enemy second riverine task force hurriedly landed troops who remained at the bridge heads without daring to venture into the area they had planned to raid.

As for the heliborne party, it was immediately intercepted upon its landing: 8 aircraft were downed, 6 others including 2 fighter planes set afire by the patriots. The column just landed was immobilized until July 24 after taking 200 casualties. When in the end, they tried to retreat, they found behind them the guerillas who inflicted on them new losses.

While the battle was raging in the countryside, Ben Tre town guerillas launched on July 23 three attacks against the U.S. lackeys, and those from the villages near the theatres of operation harassed the enemy's cover troops.

Meanwhile, the civilians checked the enemy's advance and prevented him from destroying their villages and looting their property, thus impeding his operation. The total of his losses in those three days marked that battle as one of his greatest disasters in the Mekong Delta.

IN other provinces of that part of Nam Bo, the P.L.A.F. mortared the towns of **Vinh Long, Go Cong, My Tho** and **Rach Gia** on the night of July 24. In a joint action on July 22 against the puppet forces in **Cai Von** sector, Vinh Long province, 250 enemy men were put out of action and 2 choppers downed.

In **Saigon**, a restaurant near the Police Directorate General and patronized by wicked thugs was blown up on July 21: 6 ruffians were killed and about one hundred wounded including many police officers.

95km north of the city, intercepting the enemy who tried to clear **Ron Quan** provincial capital, the P.L.A.F. destroyed on July 18 and 19 thirty amoured cars and trucks and put out of action a great number of enemy forces.

Further north, near **Loc Ninh**, the enemy was violently intercepted on July 24.

P.L.A.F. men attacking an enemy motorized vehicle.

DA NANG REGION:

About 50 Enemy Positions Attacked in 5 Days: 400 G.I.s and 600 Puppet Troops Put out of Action, 32 Aircraft, 25 Military Vehicles and 22 Depots Destroyed or Burnt

FROM July 22 to 26, the P.L.A.F. north of Quang Nam province where the big U.S. base of Da Nang is located, mortared and assaulted about 50 enemy bases and positions, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported. During that period, Da Nang air base was stormed three times and the Ban Mac logistic base twice. Among the targets hit were 4 airfields, 6 artillery grounds as well as many positions in Hoi An town. In Nuoc Man and Xuan Thieu airfields respectively southeast and northwest of Da Nang, 31 aircraft were destroyed and 170 adverse troops including many technicians put out of action.

Initial reports disclosed that all in all the P.L.A.F. had killed, wounded or captured nearly 1,000 enemy soldiers including 400 G.I.s, downed or destroyed 32 aircraft, 25 military vehicles and burnt 22 depots of war materials and equipment.

IN the region of **Highway No 9**, 169 U.S. Marines were wiped out when the P.L.A.F. assaulted their position at Ca Lu on July 25 and 26: 4 helicopters were destroyed by P.L.A.F. bombing when rescue troops came.

Further east, 4 U.S. vessels were sunk on the morning of July 27 in Cua Viet port.

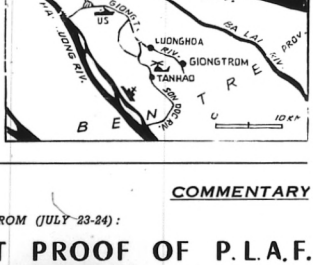
In **Hue** region, guerillas in the mountain region west of Thua Thien province put out of action in 5 days beginning July 20, 300 enemy troops, downed 5 choppers and destroyed 6 military vehicles.

On July 29 and 30, the P.L.A.F. stormed U.S. Air Mobile Cavalry Division 101 (formerly a para division), causing heavy losses to the G.I.s.

FURTHER South, on the night of July 28, the airfield in the **Tuy Hoa** provincial capital was bombarded then assaulted by many aircraft including 2 big C.130 transports and at least a F.100 *Super Sabre* fighter-bomber.

The P.L.A.F. attacked also the enemy in **Tam Ky** and **Phan Rang** towns.

In the Western High Plateaux, in the city of **Da Lat** 11 enemy offices were stormed by guerillas on the night of July 17, including the security service, the police station and the "government representation" office.



COMMENTARY

VICTORY OF GIONG TROM (JULY 23-24):

NEXT PROOF OF P.L.A.F. VAST FIGHTING CAPABILITY

THE victory won by the P.L.A.F. on July 23 and 24 in the Giong Trom area, Ben Tre province, is of great significance.

The theatre of operation was a populated delta region dotted only with irrigated fields and luxuriant orchards, hemmed in by the spreading arms of the Mekong River and criss-crossed by a thick network of canals, channels and carriage roads, a terrain unfavourable to ground troops having no river flotillas, helicopters or motorised vehicles. Furthermore, it was located barely a dozen kilometres from Ben Tre city, a provincial capital and a military sector C.P. and 25 kilometres from My Tho where the puppet 7th Division had its headquarters. It was also close to Binh Duc, the most important U.S. base in the Mekong Delta. In a word, the Americans could not dream of any battlefield more ideal than that to make the most of their fire-power. Yet, the P.L.A.F., far from refusing battle as it was believed, inflicted one of the most serious setbacks in the war on the enemy: 1,000 G.I.'s and puppet soldiers put out of action, 25 landing craft sunk or set ablaze and 14 planes and choppers cut down or damaged (see details in Military Operations*).*

The P.L.A.F. command thus put up a masterly show in the conduct of the operations. It judiciously anticipated the intentions, possibilities, actions and reactions of the adversary and took timely and suitable measures to deal with him. The secret was well kept and precautions against enemy shelling and bombing proved particularly effective despite massive use of artillery and aircraft (even giant B.52's) to "clear" the way for U.S.-puppet troops. The developments of the operations highlighted the accuracy achieved in the use of different types of weapons against such and such targets: vessels, helicopters, infantry, and so on... as shown by the great combat results. All the three kinds of troops (regular, regional and militia units) swing into action, each in missions which befitted the standards of its organisation and equipment. The civilians did not stand aloof and, as seen from the battle account, contributed to the victory by peaceful demonstrations. Moreover, the fact that the enemy was completely in the dark about what was in store for him proved that the patriots

(Continued page 7)